



REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND THE  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
FOR THE  
Borough of South Molton  
FOR THE YEAR 1964



# Borough of South Molton

Telephone No.  
South Molton 2117

Public Health Department,  
8, East Street,  
SOUTH MOLTON.

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# Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health AND THE Chief Public Health Inspector FOR THE YEAR 1964

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E. WILLIAMS  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health

L.W. EVES,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

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To his Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1964.

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR — Councillor J. CARTER, J.P., C.A.

Chairman — Alderman F. J. LOOSEMORE, J.P.

COUNCILLORS — Miss A. WILLIAMSON

Miss B. M. HUSBANDS

W. G. BROWN

L. L. LOCK

A. L. TAYLOR

A. C. BODLEY

## STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

### Part-time Officers—

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.,

G. T. HILL, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Additional Public Health Inspectors.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,910
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	...					2,950
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.65)	...	...	...	...	...	£81,217
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1964/65)	...	...	...	...	...	£312
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,029
Number of Corporation Houses	...	...	...	...	...	255
Extracts from Vital Statistics—						
Births: Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.23
Deaths: Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	0.59

### VITAL STATISTICS—

#### Live Births—

Number	...	...	...	...	...	51
Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	17.28
Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	21.25

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births

7.84

#### Stillbirths—

Number	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	19.23

Total Live and Still Births

52

Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 Year) ... ... ...

1

#### Infant Mortality Rates—

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	19.51
Legit. „ „ „ „ Legit. „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Illeg. „ „ „ „ Illeg. „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	19.60

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)

19.60

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)

19.60

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)

38.46

#### Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths

48

Death Rate per 1,000 Population

16.27

Death Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)

9.56

### BIRTHS—

During the year there were 51 Live Births as compared with 41 in 1963. There were 4 illegitimate births.

#### LIVE BIRTHS—

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	23	24
Illegitimate	...	...	3	1

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor) 21.25

#### STILL BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	0.33
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...		19.23

#### DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Borough during the year was 48—there being 23 males and 25 females. Of the 48 deaths there were 11 at Beech House, 7 of whom had been in residence for more than six months.

Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	16.27
Death Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)	...	...	9.56

The following table gives Causes of Death:—

	M.	F.	Total
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	2	0	2
„ „ „ —Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
„ „ „ —Breast	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	0	5	5
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	2	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	0	0
Other Heart Disease	8	4	12
Other Circulatory Disease	0	1	1
Influenza	0	1	1
Pneumonia	0	2	2
Bronchitis	0	0	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	0	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	3	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	1	1

Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	1	4	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	0	0	0
All Other Accidents	...	2	0	2
Suicide	...	0	0	0
		23	25	48

#### Deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

Under 4 weeks	...	1	34 — 44 years	...	2
4 weeks—1 year	...	0	45 — 54 years	...	1
1 — 4 years	...	1	55 — 64 years	...	2
5 — 14 years	...	0	65 — 74 years	...	14
15 — 24 years	...	0	75 + years	...	27
25 — 34 years	...	0			

#### Infant Mortality Rate—

During the year 1 female infant died under the age of 1 year.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	0	0
Illegitimate	...	1	1

#### Maternal Mortality—

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

#### Cancer Deaths—

There were 7 deaths due to cancer during the year.

	M.	F.	Total
Stomach	...	2	2
Lung and Bronchus	1	1	2
Breast	0	0	0
Uterus	0	0	0
Others	2	1	3
	5	2	7

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 127 infectious disease notifications were received, these consisted of 119 cases of Measles, 7 of Whooping Cough and 1 case of non-pulmonary T.B. (Male 38).

Age Groups	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
			Pul.	Non-Pul.
Under 1 year	1	—	—	—
1 +	8	—	—	—
2 +	7	1	—	—
3 +	11	—	—	—
4 +	7	2	—	—
5 — 9	80	3	—	—
10 — 14	2	1	—	—
15 — 24	—	—	—	—
25 — 44	2	—	—	1*
45 — 64	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	1	—	—	—
	119	7	Nil	1

\* T.B. (Male 38). Ulcer terminal ileum

There were no cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever or Infantile Paralysis.

## FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

## TUBERCULOSIS

There was one new case of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, as compared with 1963 when no cases of pulmonary or non-pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register within the Borough on 1st January and 31st December, 1964.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st Jan., 1964	9	7	16	2	1	3
31st Dec., 1964	10	7	17	3	1	4

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Service paid a one day visit to the town in July, their previous visit was in 1963.

A total number of 74 persons were X-rayed as compared with 784 of the previous visit.

	M.	F.	Total
Number examined ...	33	41	74
Findings:—			
A. Pulmonary Tuberculosis			
(1) Newly discovered significant cases ...		Nil	
(a) Requiring treatment ...		Nil	
(b) Requiring further observation ...		Nil	
(2) Healed cases. No further action ...		Nil	
(3) Previously known cases ...		Nil	

### SOUTH MOLTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

During the year the outdoor lavatories at this school were demolished and new toilet facilities for both boys and girls were installed within the school building. Wash hand basins with hot and cold water were provided adjacent to the toilets.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (SECTION 47)

No action was necessary under this Act during the year.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

The meals on wheels service was begun in the Autumn of 1963, and is under the immediate control of the Women's Voluntary Service organised by Mrs. J. M. Cokayne Frith for South Molton. The meals are prepared at a local cafe—36 being provided twice a week and delivered to the elderly persons in the town, some having two hot cooked meals a week, others one only. There is no doubt that this worthwhile service is a great boon to the aged and is greatly appreciated.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### Tuberculosis

All Tuberculous patients until March 1963 were treated at the Hawley Hospital, Barnstaple. The decline in the number of T.B. patients has, as a result, led to the closure of the hospital, all patients are now being admitted to Hawkmoor Hospital.

### Maternity Cases

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

## **County Welfare Home**

There is a 100 bed County Welfare Home within the town.

## **Isolation of Infectious Diseases**

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious cases.

## **Smallpox**

The Smallpox Hospital, to which cases of Smallpox will be sent is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

## **General**

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

## **Clinic and Treatment Centres**

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	A.P. Refills

**V.D. CLINICS.**—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions:—

FEMALES—Monday 4.00 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES— Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

### **Professional Nursing in the Homes**

There are 2 District Nurse Midwives in the area.

### **Laboratory Facilities**

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

### **Infant Welfare Centre**

Held Thursday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.30 p.m. at 99, East Street, South Molton.

### **Ante Natal Clinic**

Held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 99, East Street.

### **Ambulance Services**

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the ambulance service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and the Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me.

E. WILLIAMS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
TO BOROUGH OF SOUTH MOLTON  
For the Year ended 31st December, 1964**

8, EAST STREET, SOUTH MOLTON.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1964.

During the year 2,649 visits and inspections were made including:—

**PUBLIC HEALTH—**

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	102
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	61
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	22
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	40
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	88
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	234
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	24
Disfestations/Disinfections	...	...	...	...	1
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	3
General	...	...	...	...	12
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	...	...	...	...	50
FOOD AND DRUGS—Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	387
General	...	...	...	...	53
Waste Foods	...	...	...	...	1
FACTORIES—With Power	...	...	...	...	1
Without Power	...	...	...	...	1

**HOUSING—**

Slum Clearance/Rent Acts, Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	8
Council Houses Supervision, Etc	...	...	...	...	450
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—
SHOP ACTS	...	...	...	...	5
HIGHWAYS	...	...	...	...	209
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	...	...	...	...	11
LANDS AND PARKS	...	...	...	...	15
CORPORATE ESTATES, TOWN HALL, ETC.	...	...	...	...	202
MARKETS	...	...	...	...	79
INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders & Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	334
MEETINGS	...	...	...	...	68
SWIMMING BATHS	...	...	...	...	51
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	...	...	8
CAR PARKS	...	...	...	...	15
STREET LIGHTING	...	...	...	...	36
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	67
					<hr/>
			Total ...	2,649	<hr/>

## **WATER SUPPLY**

The Water Supply was again maintained satisfactorily without restriction during the year. Thirteen water samples were taken from points on the distributing system, all but one of which were satisfactory. A repeat sample proved satisfactory. Of the 12 samples taken before chlorination, 6 were satisfactory. Regular leak detection inspections were carried out. The chlorinating plant functioned satisfactorily without breaking down at any time. The pressure filters received regular attention and worked satisfactorily.

Of the 6 private water supplies taken, 2 were satisfactory, 4 were unsatisfactory.

Three samples taken from the Pool during the summer were all satisfactory.

## **SWIMMING POOL**

The swimming pool at Central Park was opened from the 16th May until the 19th September, during which time 12,700 persons attended for the purpose of swimming, including supervised parties from local schools.

## **HOUSING**

Sixteen Council houses were erected at Dart Park during the year and 14 private houses. Approval was given to five Standard Grant applications.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955**

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business, is:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	4
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers and Provision Dealers				...	12
Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	7
Public Houses, Hotels	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1

(b) 10 Premises are registered for the manufacture or preparation of preserved food.

18 Premises are registered for the sale and storage intended for sale of ice cream. One premises is registered as a dairy.

(c) Condemned food is disposed of by being taken by the Council's cleansing department and buried at the bottom of the refuse tip.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

(d) 52 visits of inspection were made to Food Premises, improvement and compliance with the regulations were secured.

### FOOD CONDEMNED

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat ... ... ...			18	8
Smoked Fish ... ... ...			7	0
Meat ... ... ...	1		2	0
Bacon ... ... ...	1		4	0
DEEP FROZEN FOODS:				
Vegetables ... ... 1	1	0	12	$\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit ... ... 1	1	4	0	
Meat, Chicken, Sausages, etc.				8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish, etc. ... ... 2	2	1	6	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cakes, etc. ... ... 9			9	12
Ice Cream ... ... 1	1	11	8	
	3	1	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

### PETROLEUM LICENCES

Licences were renewed for 20 premises to permit the storage of petroleum, total quantity covered by these licences being 41,312 gallons.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewage disposal works and pumping station functioned satisfactorily.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Both the private slaughterhouses are now in first class structural condition and a high standard of hygiene is maintained. All meat killed was inspected and it was necessary to condemn 9 cwt. 0 qr. 0 lbs. of carcase meat and 4 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs. of offal.

### FACTORIES ACT 1961

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT

The Council have continued to have the part-time services of the Rural District Rodent Operator, who works under the general supervision of the Department. Regular baiting of the Council's properties, including the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, have been carried out. The Operator has dealt sufficiently with infestations found as the result of regular survey and complaints received.

L. W. EVES,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN  
WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	343	3	999	684	Nil
Number Inspected	343	3	999	684	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which } some part or organ } was condemned }	46	Nil	38	43	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected } affected with disease } other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	13.7%	Nil	3.9%	6.28%	Nil
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which } some part or organ } was condemned }	Nil	Nil	Nil	21	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected } affected with tuberculosis }	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.07%	Nil
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which } some part or organ } was condemned }	3	Nil	5	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





